

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 DHA-02 SAJ-01 CU-02 COME-00

EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /092 W  
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R 161726Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1544

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN UNN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6567

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: US/GDR RELATIONS

1. SOME WEEKS AGO DR. GEYER TOLD ME THAT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM VACATION HE WANTED TO HAVE A TWO-HOUR TALK WITH ME ABOUT THE STATE OF US/GDR ELATIONS. OUR TALK ON OCTOBER 9 LASTED TWO HOURS AND TWENTY MINUTES.

2. I RECALLED HIS STATEMENT AND ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME HIS ASSESSMENT OF US/GDR ELATIONS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT RELATIONS HAD MOVED AS WELL AS POSSIBLE IN THE YEAR SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. THE TWO EMBASSIES WERE FUNCTIONING, AND CERTAIN AGREED ISSUES OF THE SEPTEMBER 4 AGREEMENT WERE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATION.

CONSULAR CONVENTION

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3. GEYER WAS VERY COMPLIAMENTARY OF THE WORK AT THE LAST

ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IN BERLIN, SAYING THAT IT HAD BEEN BUSINESSLIKE, THAT ALL ARTICLES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, AND THAT A RECORD HAD BEEN MADE ON ALL POINTS WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE NEXT MEETING TO PROCEED WITHOUT DELAY.

4. THE GDR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT NOVEMBER WOULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE TIME FOR A THIRD ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GDR, AS WOULD BE THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1976, AS LATER SUGGESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. GEYER THEN STATED THAT THE DEFINITION OF CITIZENSHIP WAS THE CRITICAL ISSUE. I RESPONDED THAT THE GDR SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE US DID NOT INCLUDE SUCH DEFINITIONS IN ITS CONSULAR CONVENTIONS, THAT THE GDR WAS USING THIS AS A POLITICAL ISSUE AGAINST THE FRG, AND THAT THE US WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE DEFINITION. HE APPEARED TO UNDERSTAND THIS POSITION AND SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED.

#### PROPERTY CLAIMS

5. GEYER SAID THAT THE GDR WAS READY TO NEGOTIATE PROPERTY CLAIMS WHENEVER THE US WAS READY, BUT THAT HE PRESUMED IT WOULD BE SOME TIME BEFORE SUCH A NEGOTIATION COULD BE INITIATED.

#### JEWISH CLAIMS

6. I RAISED THE MATTER AND HE RESPONDED THAT FERENCZ HAD BEEN IN BERLIN EARLIER IN THE YEAR AND THAT THE GDR ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE WAS READY TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS.

#### HUMANITARIAN CASES

7. I RAISED THE ISSUE AND TOLD GEYER THAT THE USG DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THE GDR HAD TAKEN SATISFACTORY ACTION AT ALL, AND THAT IT MUST DO SO. HE GAVE HIS EXPLANATIONS FOR THE LACK OF ACTION.

8. ONE WAS THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, CHIEFLY THE FRG, HAD

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SUCH CASES, AND THE GDR HAD TO DEAL EVENLY WITH ALL COUNTRIES. AS AN ILLUSTRATION, HE SAID THAT AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN A RECENT VISIT HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT SUCH COUNTRIES AS THE US WOULD RECEIVE PRIOR AND MORE FAVORED TREATMENT THAN AUSTRALIAN CASES. AS ANOTHER REASON, HE REMARKED THAT A NUMBER OF PERSONS ON THE US LIST "WHILE THEY MAY NOT BE THE WORST CITIZENS OF ANY COUNTRY, THEY ARE NOT THE BEST. SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT

OF RELATIONS THESE PERSONS HAVE BECOME VERY NOISY AND THE GDR HESITATES TO REWARD SUCH PERSONS AHEAD OF MORE WORTHY APPLICANTS. ALL CASES MUST BE CAREFULLY EVALUATION." I AGAIN SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTION AS PROMISED; THERE HAD BEEN NO ANSWER TO THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF JANUARY 1975; FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER HAD TOLD ME THAT THERE WOULD BE PROGRESS DURING OUR TALK IN MARCH. I ASKED GEYER TO CONVEY THIS POSITION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. ADDITIONALLY, I NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE US CONGRESS WERE WRITING TO THE EMBASSY AND THEIR INTEREST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE. GEYER TOLD ME HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE PROPER OFFICIALS; BEFORE HE LEFT SOME TWO HOURS LATER, HE AGAIN TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD DO SO.

#### CULTURAL EXCHANGES

9. I DID NOT RAISE THIS QUESTION. DR. GEYER NOTED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE GDR TO LEND PAINTINGS AND CERTAIN OBJECTS TO US INSTITUTIONS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. HE THOUGHT THIS HAD BEEN A GOOD EXPERIMENT, AS IT SHOWED THE NECESSITY OF CAREFUL PLANNING ON SUCH MATTERS AS SECURITY OF OBJECTS, INSURANCE, AND TIME OF LOAN. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN DAVID ROCKEFELLER OF CHASE MANHATTAN BANK WAS IN BERLIN, ROCKEFELLER, GDR FORMIN FISCHER AND HORST SINDERMAN HAD DISCUSSED THE EXCHANGE OF PAINTINGS BETWEEN THE DRESDEN MUSEUM AND THE NATIONAL GALLERY AND THAT FISCHER AND SINDERMAN HAD AGREED THAT SUCH AN EXCHANGE WOULD MADE. DR. GEYER SAID THE GDR CONSIDERED IT WAS A FIRM AGREEMENT BUT ONLY FOR 1977, AS IT WAS NECESSARY TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS IN 1976. HE NOTED THAT THE EXCHANGE WAS A PRIVATE MATTER AS FAR AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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US WAS CONCERNED BUT THAT SOME US GOVERNMENT HELP WOULD BE NECESSARY.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

10. DURING THE LAST TEN MINUTES OF OUR CONVERSATION, DR. GEYER SUGGESTED SEVERAL WAYS THAT US/GDR RELATIONS SHOULD BE IMPROVED, TO WHICH I OFFERED NO RESPONSE. HE MENTIONED CITY-TO-CITY RELATIONSHIPS, PARTICULARLY WITH US CITIES WICH PREDOMINANTLY ETHNIC GERMAN POPULATIONS "AROUND THE GREAT LAKES;" EMPHASIS ON SPORT EXCHANGES AFTER THE OLYMPIC GAMES OF 1976-- AFTER, BECAUSE PREPARATION FOR THE OLYMPICS MUST BE BOTH "TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC" AS IN MILITARY CAMPAIGNS SO THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WILL NOT HAVE ADVANCE INFORMA-

TION OF ONE'S STRENGTH; AND VISITS OF LABOR LEADERS,  
SUCH AS LEADERS OF THE US LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION.COOPER

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